

The Missouri Army Argus.

VOL. I.

CAMP NEAR OSEOLO, MISSOURI, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1861

NO. 4

6 June 1996

Hon. Eric P. Newman
Mercantile Money Museum
Mercantile Tower
Seventh and Washington
St. Louis, MO 63101

Good morning Mr. Newman:

I've enclosed copies of some material we talked about during your most interesting call yesterday.

The first mentions payment in Confederate (but NOT Missouri) scrip to Louisiana troops near Carthage, Missouri, on 12 October 1861.

Then there is a St. Louis Missouri Republican editorial of 22 October 1861 speculating on what the "moot legislature" would do to legitimize the "scrip" paid to the Missouri State Guard.

Next, from a 1903 second edition, is reference to "'Jackson money,' or Missouri script [sic]" supposedly printed at Neosho.

Also enclosed is a Memphis Daily Appeal republication of a story from the Fort Smith Times of Missouri Army Argus Printer William F. Wisely's visit to Fort Smith in search of a "small printing press".

Mention of the Army Argus continues in a report from the St. Louis (Daily) Missouri Democrat of 2 December 1861. This indicates the source of the paper's funds.

The Missouri Democrat also published the enclosed 29 November correspondent's report from Rolla about "'dfense State bonds'", though it mistakenly claims the authority was derived from a non-existent legislative session at Pineville, MO.

Lastly, I'm sending a copy of a requisition for payment in State Defense Bonds dated at Springfield on 5 February 1862. Note that the left margin indicates the form came from the press of "William F. Wisely, Army Printer". This reproduction was from the best-preserved of several specimens in the Civil War Papers of the Missouri Historical Society.

I've composed this cover letter before attempting to copy the enclosures. But please know I'll endeavor to make the best possible reproductions. The condition of the originals, and the copying services available to me at the sources where I found these, will largely dictate whatever success I achieve in sending you legible material.

Thanking you again for your assistance and interest, and with every good wish,
I remain

Sincerely,

Timothy R. Coughlin
436 Brooktree Drive
Ballwin, MO 63011

Enclosures

10 June 1996

Hon. Thomas Serfass
Mercantile Money Museum
Mercantile Tower
Seventh & Washington
St. Louis, MO 63101

Good morning Mr. Serfass:

Many thanks for your letter and enclosures of the Sixth. I trust you've received mine ere this.

Permit me to call to your attention some errors found in the introductory paragraphs of Criswell's Confederate and Southern State Currency, p. 272. Governor Jackson's call for a special session was dated at Lexington on 26 September. That call was read to both Houses at Neosho on the opening day, 21 October, but Criswell's language incorrectly suggests that Jackson issued his call on the latter date.

The defense act was not "passed" at Neosho as Criswell states. The legislation, which originated in the Senate, occupied considerable discussion until final adoption by both Houses at Cassville on 4 November 1861. But Criswell is correct that Gov. Jackson signed the act, making it law, on 5 November 1861.

These minor points out of the way I found the content of your Criswell enclosures most enlightening. The illustrations gave specimens of the signature of all three members of the Board of Fund Commissioners and, by all accounts, that of Thomas H. Murray at the top of page 273 represents a sample of the commissioner least active in the continuing financial affairs of the government-in-exile.

You may have some use for the briefest of sketches of the Board of Fund Commissioners named by the act of 5 November 1861:

- * Thomas H. Murray (1836-1884) was a former school teacher and newspaperman from Benton who served as Chief Clerk of the House during the Neosho-Cassville session. He resigned as Commissioner in mid-1863, though his term had already expired, and thereafter remained a resident of Texas;
- * Henry Washington Lyday (1821-1890) was a Trenton lawyer and State Senator at the Neosho-Cassville session. He resigned as Commissioner in late June or early July 1863 and, like Murray, his term had also expired. Lyday was named State Treasurer [see enclosure for details] and later simultaneously held the office of Secretary of State. He also remained in Texas after the Civil War;
- * William Shields (1808-1878) was the only banker on the Board. He was at the Lexington bank at the start of the War and no doubt

left there when the Missouri State Guard evacuated the town to head to the Southwest. Like the others his term had ended at the start of 1863 but Gov. Thomas C. Reynolds let him hold over. Reynolds made clear in one letter that his acceptance of the resignations of Murray and Lyday not only saved the State their combined yearly salaries of \$4,000, plus expenses, but gave him effective control over the policies of Shields by allowing him, at any time, to fill the vacancies with a new majority of Commissioners. There's no record I've discovered that Reynolds resorted to this and Shields appears to have remained in office for the rest of the War. At last report he was at Shreveport, LA, headquarters of the Trans-Mississippi Department. After the War Shields was the only Commissioner to return to Missouri. He worked at the Western Savings and Union National banks of St. Louis and later won a term as City Auditor.

Reference to the act discloses the "defense bonds shall be payable in three, five and seven years", though Criswell makes no mention of the latter category. Are you aware of whether a seven-year Missouri Defense Bond was printed?

The act further specifies the bonds had to be countersigned by either the Governor or Treasurer. According to Arthur Roy Kirkpatrick's 1954 dissertation, Missouri, the Twelfth Confederate State, page 277, Gov. Thomas C. Reynolds signed/countersigned a number of bonds at Camden, AR, in early June 1863. Do you know of any specimens signed/countersigned by Gov. Reynolds and not by Claiborne F. Jackson?

I must admit for me the strangest aspect of Missouri Confederate currency is the uncertainty regarding the printing run by Keatings & Ball of Columbia, SC, in 1864. Gov. Reynolds prepaid, in Confederate Treasury notes, \$34,187.50 for a face value of nine million dollars in these bonds. He is known to have dispatched seven officers, each responsible for one denomination of these bonds, so they could be safely brought to his capitol-in-exile at Marshall, TX. And there the story groes cold--except for the undisputed existence of unsigned specimens.

What is so odd is that Reynolds was a native South Carolinian who spent most of 1862 there. A brother was on the University faculty in Columbia, SC, and he had other family there. Reynolds closely attended to financial matters in his government and it is inconceivable he would pre-pay for printing bonds that so delighted him that he sent samples to the Governors of Texas and Louisiana, but ultimately is not known to have received delivery of the shipment(s).

The story that transportation was impossible because of the blockade is hardly plausible. To the end of the war Missourians in Texas were engaged in exporting cargo the size of cotton bales to Mexico for foreign trade. Many of the major Confederate ports on the Atlantic, as well as Mobile on the Gulf and most of Florida, maintained various degrees of shipping. Rail service between Columbia through Georgia and Alabama had not yet been interrupted. And Reynolds had even provided for his seven-denomination delivery team.

All this strikes me as difficult to imagine that he never received even one denomination of the new bonds. But it does seem that the available, or yet-discovered documentation, is lacking to show that he took delivery of quantities and not just samples.

Please pardon my idle speculation on the preceding page. There is a chance some light might be shed on the question at the Huntington Library in California, which informs me they have about 80 letters from Reynolds, though it's unclear if these are duplicated in his available Letter Books at the Library of Congress.

But I would be grateful to learn your responses to the two questions I posed before I began to ramble. Those concerned the existence of a seven-year Missouri Defense Bond and whether there are known specimens of Reynolds' countersigning.

I'd also wonder what, if any, legal effect it had on this currency when the date of issue was changed by handwritten notation. I realize the eventual value of this currency, except for collectors, was nil. But, in theory, was it legally possible to change the terms of these notes or bonds with the simple stroke of a pen?

I appreciated your suggestion of the Civil War Roundtable of St. Louis, which has long had a White Pages Business Listing in the phone book. But an earlier contact, regarding the 2 May 1864 Missouri Congressional election conducted entirely behind Confederate lines and outside Missouri, convinced me their focus is on military aspects.

Let me mention another aspect of this currency I've yet to fully explore. In 1866 the Missouri Senate adopted a concurrent resolution authorizing a joint committee of five to "destroy the confederate bonds and notes recently delivered to State authorities by Col. Saunders". The same day the House Ways and Means Committee reported a bill compensating this Col. Cole Saunders to the tune of \$4,000 for delivering "state archives and other public documents from Texas." The next day the House voted 83 to nine to pass an amended bill to pay Saunders \$2,000. A compensation bill was signed a few days later.

There is clearly much more digging required to explain what all this was about, but there is some reason to believe that, shortly after the War, a cache of documents, including defense bonds, was recovered from the Reynolds government in Texas and delivered to Jefferson City. Having served as Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of State between 1975 and 1982 I was aware of civil papers which were returned, and the separate delivery by Gov. Reynolds of the Great Seal, but until happening across this Cole Saunders episode I was unaware of the recovery of Missouri Confederate currency.

I'd be obliged if you would copy this letter for Mr. Newman and present him with my best wishes, accepting the same for yourself.

Sincerely,

Timothy R. Coughlin
436 Brooktree Drive
Ballwin, MO 63011

Encl.

From the Letter Book [No. 4463] of Thomas C. Reynolds, Governor of Missouri,
from 27th December 1862 to 23 December 1863, pages 133-134. Original in the
Library of Congress.

"Executive Department of the State of Missouri. Little Rock, Ark. 11th July 1863

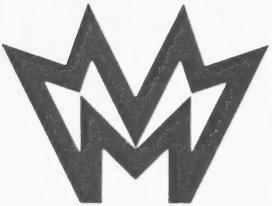
"To Hon. Henry W. Lyday

"Sir: I hereby appoint you to the office of Treasurer of the State of Missouri,
declared vacant by proper authority on November 5th 1861, to hold the same
according to law.

"I remain, Sir, very respectfully yours

Thos. C. Reynolds
Governor of the State of Missouri.

"[Delivered to Mr. Lyday, at Little Rock 11th July 1863.]"



**Mercantile
Money Museum**

Mercantile Tower
Seventh & Washington
St. Louis, Mo. 63101
314-421-1819

Timothy R. Coughlin
436 Brooktree Dr.
Ballwin, MO 63011

June 13, 1996

Dear Mr. Coughlin:

Thank you for your letters and materials, we appreciate your helpfulness. I have your letter of 10 June in front of me and I wanted to respond. I am only in the office today for the week and will be on vacation next week.

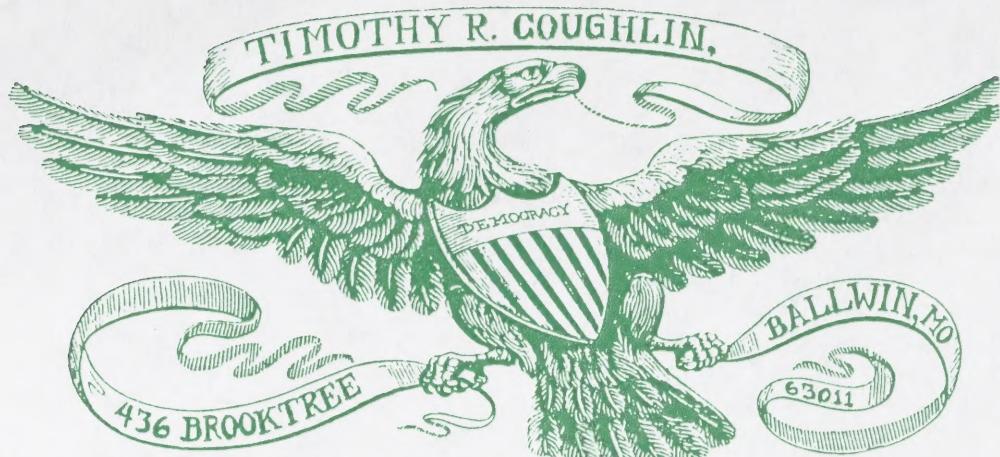
In answer to your query about seven year Missouri defense bonds, the answer is yes, they were printed and presumably issued to some degree. However, they are not the same as the currency bond issues. Missouri also issued coupon bonds in \$100 and \$500 denominations which had all three maturities. We have specimens of all of the bonds although I will not be able to check them for you today. For your information, I am enclosing copies of the bonds from an earlier Criswell work. I am unable to provide a quick answer to your question about Governor Reynolds. However, I will work on the matter to see what I can find out.

Thank you very much for the sketches of the Board of Fund Commissioners. It was kind of you to send that along. You have done a great deal of work on a rather tough subject.

We look forward to helping you in any way we can. I will try to speak to Eric, and otherwise look into the Governor Reynolds's signature question. He may well write to you before I am able to do so. Thanks again for the information.

Sincerely,

Thomas Serfass



21 June 1996

Hon. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Good morning Mr. Newman,

Beyond thanking you for the fascinating enclosures you sent on the 17th concerning Confederate private issue currency, permit me to suggest these had curative powers you did not realize.

Unable to shake off some dull aches I checked into St. Luke's Hospital on Father's Day morning and was told I was having a heart attack. It was unexpected, given my good medical history, and the symptoms were far milder than I could have imagined. All the same it was a "shot across my bow" and alerted me that I might not be immortal. After an angioplasty and a couple of days in intensive care I felt good enough to leave. But it tested the limits of my persuasive powers and it was not until Wednesday evening that I was discharged. This is the first letter I've attempted since returning home.

I hope to say here that your favor, received on my sickbed, had a remarkable effect. At a crucial moment in my life, when I needed distraction, you served it up handsomely. I was engrossed, with something akin to childhood awe, at the small treasures contained in your envelope. For that awe and distraction I am once again in your debt.

I have attempted some research on those private issues from my home in the last few hours, though my sources are modest here. Easily the most interesting item you sent was the 25-cent requisition from "French Point, Mo., May 1, 1863." Your notation mentioned you found such a town shown on a Civil War-era map of Jasper County near Carthage, but that enhanced my wonder at the printed reference to "Cadett, I.M.R.R., Mo."

I can't get it out of my mind that this must mean the still-extant town of Cadet on the old Iron Mountain Rail Road near the eastern boundary of Washington County. Using that as a point of reference please tolerate a moment of speculation.

At the time of the 1880 Missouri census there were two towns in Missouri with "French" as part of the name. Now long-gone they were French Mills in Madison County and French Village in St. Francois County. Both are in counties adjacent to Washington County and both have historic ties to French settlement. Quite near Cadet in Washington County is Mineral Point, a community whose name was established only in 1867. I just wonder if the original name of Mineral Point, which is also on the old Iron Mountain Rail Road, might have been French Point. If so, this requisition would tie two nearby communities in Washington County rather than one there and the other in far-off Jasper County.

Perhaps it seems fanciful of me to speculate some pro-Confederate issue would be exchanged in Washington County at that time so close to Union headquarters at St. Louis. But on reflection it should be remembered that in a special election held on 7 August 1871 Washington County elected the first ex-Confederate to the Missouri House. George Boardman Clark, later State Auditor, had established the county's first newspaper in 1846.

But enough of my speculation. There are two aspects of this requisition which shouldn't be hard to check once I'm a bit more footloose. The first

is simply to learn if there might have been another French Point, MO, in 1863, especially one in Washington County (and perhaps the original name of Mineral Point). The second would be determining where "T.R. Livingston" lived in the 1860 and 1870 censuses.

The other names on the requisitions you sent, J.P. Lamance at Pineville and Roberts & Ellis at Neosho, don't seem to connect with anything I have at home. But I'll see if I can learn anything about them as well.

At first I was a bit surprised, since Sterling Price retreated from that quarter of Missouri with the last effective Confederate force in February 1862, to see a Confederate requisition dated 17 March 1862 at Neosho. But by November of that year there was still not enough Union organization in Newton County to return even a single vote for State Representative in the "loyalist" general election. So it hardly seems odd that such requisitions would be available earlier in that year.

It would have been less odd for Pineville even on 18 June 1863. Not a single vote in any election sponsored by the Union was recorded from McDonald County until the 1864 presidential balloting--and then there were just 26.

In closing, I remain grateful for what you have shared. You are a storehouse of new and ever-intriguing information.

Sincerely,

Timothy R. Coughlin
436 Brooktree Drive
Ballwin, MO 63011

Encl. A random news article from my files I happened across last night.

1 JULY 1862
(DATE BOND WAS ISSUED) TO BE REDEEMED

JEFFERSON CITY.

Clark. Jackson's Bogus Bonds—Coupons Sent to Treasurer for Redemption—Public Cautioned Against Them.

[Special Dispatch to the Missouri Democrat.]

JEFFERSON CITY, October 23.—The State Treasurer has received by mail from a party residing at Newick, Wayne county, N. Y., what purports to be a coupon detached from a Missouri State bond for redemption. The subjoined is a copy of the coupon:

"The State of Missouri will pay to the bearer, at the Treasurer's office, on the 1st July, 1862, five dollars on bond No. 110. Signed W. Shields, Commissioner. \$100 bond."

On the face of the coupon is printed in red ink a figure 5, preceded by a U. S. currency mark. On the left margin is printed five dollars, and underneath is written one hundred dollar bond. The coupon is executed on ordinary blue paper. It will be remembered that W. Shields was appointed by Clark Jackson as commissioner to issue his bonds under some act of his bogus legislature at Sarcoxie, it is supposed. This is the first coupon of Jackson's bonds ever presented to the present Treasurer for redemption. It was returned to the party sending it, with a note informing him of its spurious character. How many of these bogus bonds are afloat is unknown. The public will take warning against receiving or dealing in them.

\$100

Bond is dated
Jan 1, 1862

First coupon at
10% interest is
July 1, 1862.

ST. LOUIS MISSOURI DEMOCRAT,
TUESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 1865,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Timothy R. Coughlin
436 Brooktree
Baldwin, MO 63011

June 27, 1996

Hello:

Numismatics is a steady cure for me and I am glad it helped distract you from body repairs.

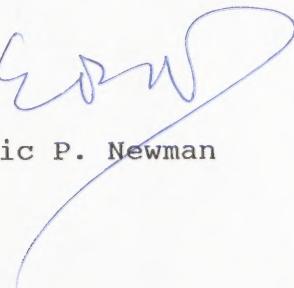
French Point was definitely in Jasper County and traders like T.R. Livingston & Co. probably had several outposts far apart. I have other notes of T.R. Livingston payable in C.N. (probably Cherokee Nation and not Choctaw Nation) in nearby Oklahoma Territory. I think Livingston was from New Orleans. Let me check further.

As soon as you check up on J.P. Lamance of Pineville or Robert & Ellis at Neosho then we will hopefully have more clues.

The newspaper notice about the coupon is fascinating. The \$100 bond is dated January 1, 1862 and at 10% interest \$5 was due on July 1, 1862. We have such bonds as we told you.

Keep filling us in on any monetary matters.

Sincerely,


Eric P. Newman

ADDRESS TO THE OLD LINE WHIGS OF THE FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

PLATTSBURG, Clinton Co., Mo. }
July 18th, 1856.

29 June 1996

Hon. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
Clayton, MO 63105

Good morning Mr. Newman:

I was wrong and wish to put that in print!

I've made my best effort at checking "French Point, MO" and humbly abashed myself. The evidence is overwhelming that, in 1863, such a place existed only in Jasper County as you had previously determined.

Reference to the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion demonstrate there was a Federal raid of a Jasper County location in May 1863 at a place called French Point and that one "Livingston" was chased from the vicinity.

Beyond this I resorted to the ace up my sleeve. She is a lifelong resident of Washington County just named by the Governor to the Missouri Humanities Council and the best source of information I know regarding the history of Washington County.

Her first letter offered some hope that I had been correct. She mentioned the place name "sounded" familiar to her area. But a second letter, received just yesterday, led her back to Jasper County for any reference to French Point, MO.

Neither she nor I can explain why such a note might have been redeemable "in specie" at "Cadett, I.M.R.R., Mo." in 1866. Only on this point does there seem to be some connection to the town of Cadet, Washington County.

While contrite at even casting the slightest doubt on your documentation, perhaps you will take solace in knowing your own investigation has positively withstood independent scrutiny. And perhaps I may be forgiven.

Let me add my correspondence to Potosi included only a copy of the 25-cent certificate. Presuming a confidence, I revealed only that someone had shown me a copy to the enclosure which I was seeking to verify.

And, since confession is good for the soul, I am sending a copy of this letter to Thomas Serfass because I mentioned to him my initial, now repudiated, speculation.

With every good wish, I remain

Sincerely,

Tim Coughlin
436 Brooktree Drive
Ballwin, MO 63011